

■ BACK PAGE

Happy birthday harmonica, happy birthday to you!

The smallest, but probably the most widely played musical instrument in the world today, the harmonica, celebrates its 150th birthday this year. It was invented in 1821 by the Berlin musical instrument manufacturer, Christian Friedrich Ludwig Buschmann.

But Buschmann was not enough of a businessman to make his invention a going proposition. Its rise to fame began in the year 1827 when one of Buschmann's mouth-organs turned up in Trossingen on the Baar, not one of the merchant crossroads of the world! It was

brought there by a clockmaker from Vienna.

A weaver in Trossingen, Christian Messner, copied the *Wienert*, as he first called the instrument, when his own developed a fault. Then he hit on the idea of making more of the little pleasant-sounding "mouth-harps" to give to the clockmakers along the river Baar for when they went on their travels.

For thirty years the secret of how to make the instrument belonged to a few clockmakers on the Baar. It was not till 1857 when the young Trossingen clockmaker Matthias Hohner started making the instruments on new sophisticated machines that mass-production became possible.

By the turn of the century several million harmonicas were being produced in Trossingen and exported all over the world as champions of Swabian quality goods.

In 1927 when the hundredth anniversary of the production of harmonicas in Trossingen was celebrated the village was raised to the status of a town.

The first steps had been taken towards forming an international harmonica orchestra in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, The Netherlands and France.

Many people took the harmonica to their hearts including top statesmen. It is said that United States Presidents Abraham Lincoln, J. Edgar Hoover and Dwight D. Eisenhower were keen mouth-organ players.

Europe's players were the Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, Prince Max

Egon zu Fürstenberg and King Gustav V of Sweden. Even Pope Pius XI liked playing the mouth-organ.

A harmonica was the first musical instrument to be played in space. Astronaut Walter Schirra smuggled one into his space capsule in December 1965 and on his Trossingen *Liliput-Mundharmonika* he surprised Earth control by playing a Christmas carol!

It is still not known how Schirra was able to smuggle the instrument into his space capsule. Which made his pleasure at surprising the world with his music all the greater.

The distant ancestor of the mouth-organ is the ancient Chinese *sheng*, which is said by a saga to have been invented by the Emperor Huang Tel 2,800 years before Christ.

This instrument is still played today. It is not known whether the tongues of metal that make the sound in the harmonica came to Europe via the land route and Siberia or whether they were brought by sailors.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 29 January 1971)

Good bee-haviour!

Hesse's bees will be calmer in future! Or so says the Hesse Ministry of Agricultural and Environmental Affairs. It has been discovered recently that the aggressive tendencies shown by some bees are inherited.

So the department of the Hesse state institution for animal breeding responsible for beekeeping, with its centre in Kirchhain, has set about a new programme of bee breeding where the essence will be to make the bees better tempered.

So that the bees can be made tamer the poor old Queen Bee will have to give up her love-life. Artificial insemination is on the way in. In this way, the Ministry claims, "selected parentage and breeding" can be introduced.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 29 January 1971)

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Trossingen's 'Hohner' were the first mass-produced harmonicas

(Photo: Center Press/

It is known, however, that the use of metal as a producer of musical sounds was generally known by 1810.

Then in 1821 Buschmann first used his harmonica and this sound led to the invention of the "squeeze-box", the cordion.

These have also been produced in Trossingen and exported all over the world for several years now.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 2 February 1971)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Another French *non* to British EEC entry will be fatal

The watchdogs of French nation-state thinking may well have gained a Pyrrhic victory in halting the trond towards supranational European institutions again at the latest negotiations of the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels.

The balance of the European Common Market has now been disturbed. A fragile Western European structure has unexpectedly arisen that will make successful integration even more essential in the immediate future than it has been in the past.

In Brussels the French government was once again able to skim the cream off the milk.

Monetary policy cooperation was agreed, if only for a limited period but hopes and expectations were all the signs

there was of cooperation on economic policy, which would have called for supranational institutions.

In case of need the stronger currency will back the weaker — the Mark will support the franc. This state of affairs

cannot be permanent and it was only accepted as a crutch in order to keep the wheel of Western European integration turning.

It is now inexorably turning towards the all-important problem of Britain's EEC entry bid.

The talks with Britain are reaching a

critical stage. Differences of opinion in Britain are undisguised and the controversy is gaining momentum. Whitehall's

ability to sustain economic strain is

unmistakably limited.

This does not mean that the Common Market countries must accept all British

demands but it does mean that their own

conditions must in the opinion of all Six

be both fair and appropriate to Britain's

difficult position.

If these talks with Britain fail there will be no more. If this undertaking of historic importance is to come to naught the responsibility must not be laid at the Six's door. Which is as much as to say that Paris must revise a number of the stipulations it has so far insisted on.

If the talks with Whitehall were again

to founder on French obstinacy the result

would not merely be alienation between Britain and the Continent. The outcome of having made do with a dubious compromise in Brussels would then be clear.

Had the Six agreed on progress towards economic union in the spirit of the Hague conference — to all intents and purposes on political integration too, that is — a storm would not have been able to ravage the Common Market over Britain. But as it is the EEC would hardly stomach a fresh triumph of rational egocentrism.

In the atmosphere of exasperation that would then be bound to develop all concessions made by one Common Market country to the other would appear dubious and be gone through with a fine-toothed comb.

It would, in the circumstances, be

doubtful whether despite sacrificial efforts a great deal of progress towards a common currency would be made or, in view of the tension, much could be done towards establishing an economic union.

And pressure to call off the currency experiment and all that that would entail in political terms would be bound to arise as soon as the consequences of the latest decisions on financing the EEC budget strike the general public.

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Speed-skating champion

Grenoble Olympiad gold-medallist Erhard Kellner made sure of first place in the second unofficial world speed-skating championships in Inzell on 20/21 February. Over the final 1,000 metres a 7,000-strong crowd by coming home a tenth of a second ahead of Ove König of Sweden, setting up a new national record of 1:58.45 points in the process. In the centre Erhard Kellner is receiving the honour for being first. On his left is Hesse Boerries and on his right Ove König, both from Sweden, who came second and third respectively.

(Photo: dpa)

sally forth from the other side of the Channel.

Britain boasts not only gnarled traditionalists on the Right and Left but also a progressive political Centre.

Edward Heath's recent call for European unity of action to "give our countries together the position in the world that we can never again reach alone" and for new concepts and new supranational Western European institutions has articulated the political targets of this progressive Britain. Europeans on the Continent will want to form an effective alliance with him.

Dieter Cycon

Scheel's New York visit was fruitful

for Western European integration and an advocate of an "open" policy on the part of the European Communities.

Political integration of Western Europe and non-isolationist policies are a must as far as Washington is concerned if the United States is to accept the disadvantages the merging of the European market is going to involve for American trade and industry.

Herr Scheel assured his hosts in Washington that the Bonn Federal government will advocate regular and intensive consultations with the US government and industry in Brussels. A continual exchange of views and experience plays no mean part in ensuring that the interests of all and sundry are taken into account and so prevent serious conflict.

There has been many a smile about the non-committal travelling diplomats of the age and the fruitless activity at so many conferences. But meetings and an intensive exchange of views can be useful, particularly when they are undramatic and unpretentious. Walter Scheel's visit and the work of the Group of Four are cases in point.

Cyrill von Radizbor

(Kleiner Nachrichten, 22 February 1971)

Frankfurter Allgemeine

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Foreign Minister Walter Scheel did not return from Washington and New York empty-handed. He brought back with him renewed assurances that can hardly be ignored by even the most convinced opponents of the policies of the Social and Free Democrat coalition in Bonn.

Senior American politicians including President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers assured Herr Scheel that the United States has no objections to this country's policy towards the Eastern Bloc and will continue to try and bring about an acceptable Berlin settlement within the framework of the Four-Power talks as basis for further development of this policy.

Following the Foreign Minister's latest visit to the United States the much-vaunted differences of opinion between Bonn and Washington have been reduced even more clearly to what really lies behind them: a little more optimism on this country's part and a little more scepticism and pessimism on the American side.

This country and its major ally disagree not on the targets and methods of Bonn's

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

South-East Asia poses threat of becoming a second Korea

Clearly the Chinese have so far held off from involvement in the Vietnam War. They have withstood all temptations to bring them into direct confrontation with the Americans. They did nothing spectacular in 1964 and 1965 when President Johnson launched a massive attack from South Vietnam to put a stop to the victory march of the Liberation Front.

Nor did the Chinese send in an expeditionary force a year ago when President Nixon sent troops into Cambodia as part of his policy of Vietnamisation.

But now that the Americans have provided powerful air cover to allow South Vietnamese and Thai troops to march into southern Laos observers feel that Red China's reaction will be far more decisive.

The *Peking People's Daily* raged a few days ago: "China and Laos have the same heritage, they share the same mountains and rivers. The attack on Laos is a serious threat to China. We will not allow United States imperialism to do as it wants in Laos."

At the customary anti-American protest meetings in Peking, Canton and other cities in China veterans from the Korean War were also on the march. They brought the Americans and their auxiliary troops face to face with a second Korea.

Such talk as this was not taken seriously by General McArthur in the winter of 1950-51 when he pushed forward into Yalu and provoked war with China.

The Americans are once again showing themselves to be all too self-assured but quite uncaring, when they maintain that the Laos operation under their auspices does not represent a threat to China and that they are really seeking better relations with China. Peking is not swallowing that.

Red China has come to expect anything from the Nixon government now that it

has become obvious that Vietnamisation is in no way confined to Vietnam but has led to a conflagration in the whole of Indo-China and is already affecting Thailand.

Laos, like North Vietnam, is for China a strategic area in which it will not tolerate an enemy power and has been such for some time.

Have the protégés of the United States in Saigon, Thieu and Ky, who were fighting against their own people in the days when the French were in Indo-China, not recently dreamed quite openly of an incursion into North Vietnam without Washington taking any steps to shatter their dreams?

In accordance with its historical policy on the South-East Asia mainland China seemed prepared up to a few years ago to tolerate and co-exist with small neutral buffer states between themselves and the American sphere of influence. Since President Nixon has been pursuing his policy of withdrawal with a kind of vanguard action by his protégés this relatively peaceful situation has literally been trampled underfoot by the boots of the Americans. Now Mao Tse-tung has been laying much greater emphasis on the other constant factor in his policy, namely the role of the protectors of the revolutionary people's power. The Chinese are not prepared to sit back and watch them be defeated.

China has a whole range of possibilities. It could quickly drum up an expeditionary force. But China will avoid direct conflict with the Americans and their allies unless any actual threat is made to the Chinese borders or any of its allies should seem to be on the verge of defeat.

Alternatively the Chinese could send their own auxiliary troops in some guise or other to North Vietnam and the "liberated zones" of Laos. This would mean that more of the indigenous fre-

dom fighters in these countries would be free to get on with their real work. This method, which presumably cannot be dubbed intervention, has already been pursued by the Chinese when American bombs were raining down on North Vietnam. The procedure could be repeated with even greater force.

There has been a Chinese presence in northern Laos for some years. They are building a road which will be passable in all weathers from Yunnan with a branch leading to Dien Bien Phu in North Vietnam and to the Thai border. Permission for this road to be built was given in Peking in 1963 by the Laotian Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma who was then actually neutral. This fact is today generally speaking hushed up. The project which was originally conceived as a "peace route" could easily be turned into a military road.

But the Chinese do not embark on any military adventure until it is absolutely essential. They mistrust direct exports of the Revolution by sending forces into other countries. This is in their view far more the tactics of the "American counter-revolution".

Mao has said on this: "Liberation must be achieved by a country's own forces in a long-term civil war."

But of course the Chinese support the liberation movements with arms and encouragement. Recently they signed a new agreement to give increased aid to North Vietnam and the Pathet Lao. But the Chinese do not think along the same lines as the Americans, in terms of months or the lapse of time between one election and another; they operate in terms of years and decades.

President Nixon's hectic and militaristic manoeuvres in Indo-China have squandered many political opportunities in Cambodia and Laos, arrangements with Thailand and North Vietnam, and last but not least a coalition in Saigon excluding the hawks Thieu and Ky.

It seems as if America will in the end have to be content with seeing the formation of some new "peoples' democracies". The Asian military manoeuvres of the United States have so far been caught up in a series of political misrages.

Siegfried Kubitschek
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 February 1971)

Brussels speaks out on Comecon

Direct talks between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Moscow-oriented Council for Mutual Economic Aid (Comecon) seem to be long time coming.

The EEC Commission in Brussels just stated in reply to a query by a member of the European Parliament that contacts between the two bodies are out of the question, though the completely different structure and targets of the two must be borne in mind.

This ought to put a stop to thought talk in Western Europe of Comecon as the "Eastern European counterpart to EEC".

Brussels specifically noted that Comecon does not have an excuse comparable with the EEC Commission, independently seeing to it European legislation and agreements stood by and ensuring equality for member-countries, large and small.

Unlike the EEC, Brussels' Comecon mainly coordinates European production plans. It does go on to add that Soviet requirements predominate and that Comecon is the economic counterpart of the Brezhnev doctrine that "socialist" states enjoy limited sovereignty.

There are good reasons for this. The well-known fact that Poland has pressed Moscow for a year to be allowed to establish contacts with the EEC a benefit from this with the Six.

Soviet readiness to accept the fact of the EEC's existence (starting in 1968) Moscow poked fun at the idea and since vilified it except for a short interval in 1962, would be unlikely to grow Brussels were to spell out Comecon in words of one syllable.

But the facts being as they are Brussels is evidently for the time being unwilling to accept Comecon as an opposite member and so indirectly allow the Soviet Union to increase their hold on the economies of Eastern Europe.

Hermann Böhl
(Kölner Nachrichten, 16 February 1971)

■ CHINA

Sinologists agree to differ at Hamburg seminar

Die Welt

Opinions differ on Maoism. Even Sinologists disagree when it comes to painting a picture of China today with the aid of the known ideological goals of the men in power in Peking.

At its political science conference on "Twenty Years of People's China" the Federal Republic East Asian Studies Society, meeting in Hamburg, tried to reach a consensus on China by means of numerous analyses of known development in ideology and the arts, domestic and foreign policy, the economy, power structure and constitution of the People's Republic.

For three days leading Sinologists, politicians and economists in this country attempted to outline pointers to an up-to-date picture of contemporary China. As it turned out they were only able to indicate trends.

Both sides know that in China today the revolutionaries around Mao Tse-tung are trying to create a new view of society. But does the change that is being made amount to a genuine democratisation of the individual Chinese or is the trend towards outright equality even among the sexes more of a glaring example of perverse egalitarianism?

Are Mao's ideologists irreverent imitators of civilisation or do they intend transforming Chinese traditionalism?

Mass consciousness, praised to the skies by the Party as an expression of spontaneous revolutionary fervour, turns out all too often to be a cliché imposed on the people from above that eliminates any trace of individuality. The selfless new Maoist man proves to be a hackneyed stereotype.

Can a modern mass state be managed with the aid of this kind of man? Will not progressive industrialisation necessarily mean a return to revisionism? Does this new society of enforced equals necessarily lead to permanent revolution with equals remaining equal?

The Cultural Revolution was intended to create a new category of man, developing

Modern Maoist society would like to be classed as a monolithic unit yet it is far from having reached this target. Symbolic figures climb the rungs of the Party ladder, are swept away by the next purge, fondering on the political controls to which the state has subjected itself.

When Mao decided to regain control over the Party with the aid of the army he initiated the Cultural Revolution. The Cultural Revolution may have been practised as a process of transformation to the new kind of man but it also to a very great extent bore witness to the power struggle behind the Party scenes.

As according to Mao power comes from gun barrels the leadership of the state is now entirely in the hands of the army. The Party is still termed the leadership nucleus of the Chinese people but the nucleus of the leadership is the armed forces.

How, then, can China best be described as a people's commune or as a military dictatorship? *Klaus-Herbert Wolff* (Die Welt, 17 February 1971)

President Pompidou returns to strife-ridden France

In the past few weeks the French government has had to put up with much goading from trade unions, protests from malcontented farmers, disturbances at high schools and universities and post and television strikes.

President Georges Pompidou was on a ten-day visit to Africa. The supreme authority in Paris was missing. The French government seemed incapable of solving the current problems and tried to postpone them until Pompidou was back at the Elysée to have the last word.

This confirms that the French President has strengthened his position as the supreme authority in France and has extended his powers.

At the same time, however, it became clear that despite the peaceful atmosphere in France and the economic progress that has been made there, there are still many sources of social unrest. The Pompidou/Chaban-Delmas government will have to overcome these problems on the way to its promised "new society", to greater social equality, to sweeping educational reforms and to greater liberalism.

There is no binding guarantee that the government can preserve its majority as Pompidou's policy of developing Gaullism runs its course as the retirement of the two old Gaullists Vendroux and Fouchet last week proves.

Observers in Paris are anxious to avoid placing too great a significance on these events. The comparison with 1968 when Prime Minister Pompidou was in Afghanistan and *President de Gaulle* was in Romania while the student riots raged in the Latin Quarter seems exaggerated.

A tacit pact between Romania and Yugoslavia with the approval of Albania will virtually cut Bulgaria off from the remainder of the Eastern Bloc.

But diverse groups of the French people are showing growing discontent with the government which is being measured by the yardsticks of the high-flown promises it made in its early days.

For miners and farmers it is a fight for survival. In the universities protests are being lodged about the failure to implement reform legislation and insufficient financial provisions. The lycées in Paris are protesting about the draconian judgement against an 18-year-old who was arrested at a proscribed demonstration, accused of striking a police officer and who is probably innocent. The left-wing extremists have lapped this up for agitation purposes.

But each of these events on its own would not disturb the government unduly but their coincidence in recent weeks has been disturbing.

The unions have, however, lost a lot of their former aggressiveness following the successes of economic and social services policies put into operation by the Paris government. But the struggle could easily be switched to a new sphere with which it is not so easy to get a grip, for instance the question of civil rights and the independence of television.

In this context there is also an aura of general discontent with the police who have been accused on several occasions of excessive violence at public meetings.

In the government and the Gaullist majority group representatives of the hard line and of liberal policies confront each other. But so far their contradictory speeches and actions have had a mutually lancing effect. The next few weeks will show whether Pompidou on his return can cool down the feeling of discontent.

Hans Bartsch (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 February 1971)

Two factors lurking in the background will affect the American-Soviet arms talks on strategic nuclear weapons, firstly the forthcoming Salt conference in Vienna and the shift of emphasis in future missile programmes from land bases to sea-based launching pads.

The latter throws light on the true value of the treaty recently signed in Moscow forbidding the use of the seabed for missile launching pads and for storing weapons capable of mass annihilation, that is to say rockets with nuclear warheads, atomic mines and submarine nuclear weapon depots.

This treaty has no major practical significance inasmuch as it does not prevent the two major world powers developing the strategic arms arsenal on which they place the greatest value, perfecting this or rather protecting it.

If they really had a serious interest in this they would either have refused to sign the treaty or worded it in a different manner.

The new treaty allows every nuclear power the right to build up undersea rocket batteries and nuclear weapon dumps within the twelve-mile limit; that is to say on its own continental shelf.

But such emplacements have only very slight advantages over conventional submarine missile sites on the mainland, since the shallow waters near the coast do not offer adequate protection.

This project has already been made public by the American Defence Secretary Melvin Laird.

The Russians are developing similar missiles and speeding up their own rocket submarine programme. In 1970 they had ten nuclear submarines each carrying sixteen SS N 6 nuclear rockets. They are

Seabed protection treaty will not hamstring the major powers

nuclear arms for launching from submarines in these well protected undersea spots.

This is a decision that the signatories of the new arms limitation treaty have presumably taken because on such sites the additional advantages would have been bought at too high a price and the risk of disturbing the uneasy peace would have been too great.

With this in mind the Americans have up development work on their "Hydra" project long before the treaty was signed. This Hydra system planned to dump nuclear missiles from submarines on the ocean floor, anchor them there and prepare them for firing from a central remote-control station at the outbreak of hostilities.

The Americans are now planning to dig into their budget and develop a new super underwater-launched missile, the first underwater intercontinental missile being slowed down. These are threatened by the American Minuteman missiles with their high power and accuracy. This has led western observers to assume that the Russians are shifting their emphasis of their missile programme to underwater launching pads and submarines.

But the range offered by the Poseidon makes it necessary for vessels that are to attack targets in central Russia and China to be placed in a firing position in the open seas in which they cannot be protected by support vessels but are open to attack from the enemy navy and air force. The risk is not particularly high now that nuclear subs can fire missiles while submerged, since it is still difficult to locate them. But the danger could increase in the next ten years.

Counteracting this growing risk in time is the point of the new ULMs development. A range of over 5,000 miles means that the rocket launching submarine can be placed in any favourable position and aim at virtually any target.

The Russians are developing similar missiles and speeding up their own rocket submarine programme. In 1970 they had ten nuclear submarines each carrying sixteen SS N 6 nuclear rockets. They are

increasing this fleet by between five and ten similar vessels annually. The SS N 6 is estimated to have a range of about 13,000 kilometres or 2,000 miles.

Observers have noted for some time that the introduction of the land-based Russian intercontinental missile SS N 6 is being slowed down. These are threatened by the American Minuteman missiles with their high power and accuracy. This has led western observers to assume that the Russians are shifting their emphasis of their missile programme to underwater launching pads and submarines.

Lothar Riedel
(Die Welt, 15 February 1971)

The German Tribune

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The new leadership has allowed not a shadow of doubt to be cast on its loyalty to the bloc and agreements reached by the previous administration, including the treaty with Bonn, have expressly been declared unaffected by the changes. The five-year plan is given prominence and the reshuffle has only affected the main economic policy-makers and security men.

The Party leadership is saving a few words addressed to international political counterparts on the "capitalist" side of the fence for the congress itself.

Over the last couple of months Poland appeared to have become the least secure of Moscow's European allies, the workers at large factories having begun to voice their own opinions about government policy. But the reshuffle at the top in Warsaw makes it clear that the points at issue in what is the second largest Eastern Bloc country have remained domestic economic and social matters.

The new leadership has allowed not a

have been entrusted to a non-Communist member of the Peasants' Party.

Ex-Minister for the Arts Krasko has been promoted to Deputy Premier. He appears to be the man chosen to respond obligingly to the Roman Catholic Church's offer of cooperation.

Following the "return to normal" in Czechoslovakia, Romania was the trouble child of the communist camp, but Moscow has restored order in relations with Bucharest, too in time for the Party congress.

A new trade agreement commits Romania to earmarking substantial amounts of merchandise for export to the Soviet Union. The alliance treaty with Russia, now prolonged, no longer includes provisions. Romanian membership of Comecon is also to be extended to the joint credit organisation that has recently come into being.

The Minister of the Interior is ex-Deputy Chief of Police Szalich, a man reckoned to be one of the nationally-minded group of veteran partisans, who was lucky enough not to have anything to do with what went on in the Baltic coast towns during the critical period.

The Finance Minister has announced that higher taxes are to be levied on what is left of private enterprise while the difficult problems relating to foodstuffs

have been entrusted to a non-Communist member of the Peasants' Party.

■ LABOUR AFFAIRS

Government and Opposition agree basically on changes in worker participation

Existing laws provide for two types of worker participation in decision-making. Firstly, there is equal participation on the boards of mining firms and secondly on joint-stock companies (apart from family concerns) and in other stock companies of different legal status if they employ more than 500 workers a third of the board must be made up of a worker delegation.

Government Bills for a law governing industrial relations and for a continuation of worker participation in the mining industry are meant to uphold the present state of affairs.

In the mining industry they plan to prevent equal worker participation suddenly being ended in the event of mining companies merging with other companies. Equal worker participation is to be upheld for a number of years at least under certain conditions.

Worker participation in the mining industry functions as follows. Boards are composed of eleven members, four of whom are elected by share-holders and a further four by employees. An additional member is then elected by both the share-holder and employees representatives. The eleventh member of the board is then co-opted by the two groups.

During the last legislative period the Social Democrats introduced a Bill in the Bundestag that would have imposed this board structure on all large companies and concerns in other branches of the economy as long as they were of a certain size.

The scheme would be introduced in those firms which employed at least two thousand workers and had a balance of at least 75 million Marks, those with at least two thousand workers and an annual turnover of at least 150 million Marks and those with profit of at least 75 million Marks and an annual turnover of 150 million Marks or more.

At the same time the Social Democrats wanted to set up boards of employee delegates in these firms to act as a balance to the main shareholder meetings. As yet the SPD have not made any new decisions concerning worker participation on boards.

Unlike the government, the Christian Democrat and Christian Social Union Opposition has submitted a Bill for a new law governing worker participation in firms that also provides new rules for boards.

In firms employing up to 2,000 workers a third of the board would continue to consist of employee delegates, the CDU/CSU Bill proposes. The ruling of the 1952 law still governing industrial relations would therefore be retained.

The CDU also proposes upholding the ruling that family joint-stock companies employing less than 500 workers need not have employee delegates on the board.

The Party furthermore proposes upholding the rule that limited companies, mining unions and mutual insurance companies must set up partnership boards if they employ more than 500 workers. Existing laws do not make this compulsory for mutual insurance companies but the CDU/CSU would like to introduce this.

For concerns with more than 2,000 workers the CDU Bill proposes a twelve-man board composed of seven share-holder delegates and five worker delegates. If the number of board members is increased, this must be done by increasing the numbers of the two groups equally. It

would then be possible for instance to have a board consisting of nine shareholder and seven employee delegates.

Contrary to these proposals, the Biedenkopf Commission has proposed a board made up of six share-holder and four employee delegates. Two further members would be elected by a majority of the share-holder and the employee representatives. That would lead to a board consisting of seven share-holder and five employee representatives.

The more thorough rules in the CDU/CSU Bill also state that employers and employees are obliged to encourage that exchange the information within the firm.

The CDU/CSU Bill proposes changes in the joint-stock law to strengthen the position of employee delegates on the board. It is planned that the chairman of the board must from the very beginning discuss negotiations preceding the appointment of members of the executive with either the president of the board, the personnel committee or with the whole board.

As a further proposal provides for a participation of employee delegates in the committees and presidium corresponding to their number on the board itself, there is a second guarantee that decisions would not be taken without employee representatives.

This would be even more assured as the CDU/CSU Bill prescribes a written justification and its inclusion in the minutes

of the board.

The two Bills differ on what they define as an employee. In the government Bill it is not only directors of limited companies or the management who are excluded from this definition but also senior white-collar workers if they are allowed to appoint and dismiss staff, have powers to engage workers or carry out important duties for the firm because of their special knowledge.

The CDU/CSU Bill only excluded directors or the management of limited companies from the employee category. The Opposition Bill does however envisage special representation for the top white-collar workers in the shape of consultative committees.

Like the government Bill, the CDU/CSU Bill would curtail the rights of participation of the workers council in personnel issues involving the top white-collar workers.

The majority employees consider that the most important right of the workers council — a body they elect — is participation in questions concerning personnel.

There is a significant difference between the government and CDU/CSU Bills on the participation of the workers council in decisions involving dismissals.

Like the CDU/CSU Bill, the government Bill states that the workers' council should be heard and informed before any dismissals are made.

But the right of the workers council to oppose dismissals is given stricter expression in the CDU/CSU Bill and, in case of dispute, this opposition can only be reconciled by a labour court.

In the government Bill only the employee himself can complain to a court of a labour court and the employer must tell the employee what the position of the workers council is if this body has indeed opposed the dismissal.

The two Bills differ little on the general duties of the workers council and on the laws necessary to guarantee its work.

There are differences in the phrasing of the rights of participation in decision-making in the social sphere. The government Bill merely says that the workers' council has to participate in the substance of the Bills. Both the government and the CDU/CSU Opposition are comparable in as far as the largest part of the CDU/CSU Bill aims to reform the same aspects as the government Bill — the rights of the workers' council and the individual employees in the firm.

But the two Bills are drawn up differently. Because of the CDU/CSU's aim of placing most emphasis on the rights of the individual worker, this is given prominence in their Bill.

There are only minimal differences in the substance of the Bills. Both the government and the Opposition Bill contain essentially the same list but states, "The following questions can only be settled jointly by the government and workers' councils." The Opposition Bill contains essentially the same list but states, "The following questions can only be settled jointly by the government and workers' councils."

The list contains for example regulations for the start and the finish of the working day, the fixing of short-term employment, overtime or shift work (this point is omitted in the government Bill), the administration of social amenities, the establishment of rates of pay, and the allocation of holiday dates.



Hans Katzer, Opposition expert on labour affairs

(Photos: dpa)

in the case of a majority vote and it is also intended to release employee delegates to a certain extent from their obligation to be silent if cases of dispute arise.

The two worker participation Bills of the government and the CDU/CSU Opposition are comparable in as far as the largest part of the CDU/CSU Bill aims to reform the same aspects as the government Bill — the rights of the workers' council and the individual employees in the firm.

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Continued on page 5

ties of employees must be clearly defined. The CDU Bill also states, "Members of a firm act according to their own responsibility within their functional sphere. When establishing spheres of responsibility attention must be paid to delegating duties as far as possible."

Contrary to these proposals, the Biedenkopf Commission has proposed a board made up of six share-holder and four employee delegates. Two further members would be elected by a majority of the share-holder and the employee representatives. That would lead to a board consisting of seven share-holder and five employee representatives.

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Continued on page 5

■ REFORMS

Professor Thomas Ellwein presents controversial armed forces reforms

The most important and certainly most controversial man in the Ministry of Defence after Minister Holmut Schmidt is a civilian — Thomas Ellwein, a professor of political science.

Professor Ellwein is the head of the Armed Forces Educational Institute as well as chairman of the Commission for the Reorganisation of Military Training and Education.

On top of this comes the increasing degree of technology that makes it indispensable for some troops at least to be specialised.

Finally the shortage of 2,500 full and 26,000 non-commissioned officers must not be forgotten. A course of training enabling easier transition into civilian life could make the soldiering profession more attractive once again and help to alleviate the shortage.

Some people view his position with suspicion. It is not only the Professor's political standpoint that has been attacked. Proposals made by his commission have also met with fierce criticism.

And yet there is no doubt that instruction in the armed forces must be reformed. The principle once drawn up by the Prussian general staff that an army consists of elitist units, regular troops and a territorial defence, a view that still applies today, is somewhat of an anachronism in the age of the nuclear deterrent.

Continued from page 4

wage negotiations. In the government Bill this is possible without a wage contract.

Another point of divergence is the ban on party political activity contained in the CDU/CSU Bill as mass dismissals in the government Bill avoids this ban.

Both Bills state that the limit should be drawn where the proportion of employees dismissed or transferred because of changes in the firms' operations exceeds ten per cent of the total job force. Both Bills state that there must be a welfare scheme and a redress of economic hardship for people affected by such measures.

Both Bills also state that there must be an economic committee in future, or try to the laws currently prevailing in personnel issues involving the top white-collar workers.

On another point the two Bills are identical, coinciding with existing law. In concord with influencing public opinion, especially newspaper concerns, the workers' council's rights of participation in staff questions are curtailed.

Hans Dieter Kloss

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 11 February 1971)

Continued from page 4

forty years old. He must however pass an examination before being allowed to take the course.

For servicemen and non-commissioned officers who have signed on for a long period of service the commission proposes several military and specialist further training stages as well as the right to further professional training of a civilian nature.

As those interested will be able to catch up on their school-leaving certificates during these courses, they will have the opportunity of embarking on an officer's career after undergoing the necessary training.

Candidates will be able to choose between engineering, electronics, aerospace technology, biology, education, computer science, organisation and business management. Their study will be supplemented by sociological and educational lectures.

These five years are to be followed by a two-year initiation period in which the officers will take over their first duties. In the following five years of service the officer should gain promotion to higher ranks.

The first further training stage should begin in the thirteenth year of service. Officers will then study for two and a half years at an armed forces' academy or a public university or college.

During the second further training stage the top men of tomorrow will take a twelve-month course at a Federal Defence Academy. Anyone can apply for this course as long as he is a colonel or at least a major.

Doubts against the scheme expressed by the top brass however are more serious. Nearly all the generals welcome the

proposals in principle, but there are details to which they object.

They regret the fact that there is no information about the financial needs occasioned by the reform. Cautious estimates state that the Commission's plans would require at least one thousand million Marks a year.

With the finances of the defence budget being as stretched as they are at present, that would mean an increase in defence expenditure, which the Finance Minister would hardly allow, or further cuts in armaments which would be indefensible considering the cuts already made and would probably meet with the opposition of our Nato allies.

There are also problems of personnel. The fact that no young officers would be available for three years is of lesser importance. One general has said, "We have always improvised." The present situation is so bad that we would be willing to accept a further worsening for three years if an improvement can be achieved in this way."

What does seem to be more questionable to many people is that officer candidates are forced to study. There is the fear that many would-be officers will be frightened off by this.

It must also be taken into account that putting the proposals into practice would make an increase in the size of the armed forces inevitable, even if only the present fighting strength were to be maintained. The demand for long-term soldiers caused by the increased period of training will increase by anything up to twenty per cent.

The final point is that the Commission's proposals place high demands on intelligence and education of the soldiers — demands that are unfortunately not always fulfilled.

The Commission is to be thanked for trying to make the armed forces more attractive and integrating them more into society. But it has obviously overlooked the fact that about ten per cent of conscripts have not even matriculated from elementary school. There is still time left to consider whether a reduction in numbers would not lead to a more powerful force.

(Münchner Merkur, 10 February 1971)

merely encouraging the general increase in crime.

There may be initial expense involved in setting up a prison — from our own pockets — with adequate working opportunities, therapeutic amenities, sports grounds and the like that aims to rehabilitate the prisoner, and then not always successfully.

But on the positive side of the account there are the savings that can then be made — there is a saving of expenditure on social aid to the prisoner's family or his victim, there are the economic benefits of rehabilitation and the cost of putting up the prisoner again at the State's expense is avoided.

If the prisoner learns a trade while in prison he can do a useful and full-paid job and at the same time repair the damage that he has caused. He learns to be responsible instead of being robbed of all his sense of responsibility.

Completely cut off from the outside world, restricted in the number of letters and visitors, he is allowed to receive and live in a world that destroys all individual initiative, the prisoner, who is unstable anyway, is robbed of his final ounce of self-confidence and made completely unfit for life.

Contrary to the prevailing view, the majority of people in prison are not aggressive gangster types. The typical prisoner has

■ ENTERTAINMENT

Higher costs and smaller audiences plague theatres

Theatres in this country are hitting the headlines, though not because of their productions or stage scandals. Instead news stories usually come from behind the scenes. Because of a decline in attendances and a increase in costs theatres are in difficulties — the books cannot be balanced.

This is why the managers responsible for the artistic quality and financial accounts of their highly subsidised theatres have been approaching their State sponsors.

Some well-known names figure on the list of theatre managers who have come under fire because of this:

In 1967 Harry Buckwitz, at that time heading Frankfurt's municipal theatres, quarrelled with the municipal authority as it wished to keep its theatre budget down to 16.3 million Marks because of the recession. Buckwitz on the other hand wanted an extra 400,000 Marks.

In May 1969 the auditing committee of the Düsseldorf Provincial Assembly severely censured Karl-Heinz Stroux, who managed the local Schauspielhaus, for paying too generous salaries.

The most recent case occurred with Hans Lietzau in Hamburg. To balance his books, he had demanded that his six million Marks budget should be raised by 1.34 million for the 1969-70 season.

Reinhard Philipp, Hamburg's Cultural Affairs Senator, censured the manager of Deutsches Schauspielhaus. "While granting artistic freedom," Philipp said, "Lietzau neglected the important economic aspects and, in particular, did not take measures to halt the drop in attendances".

During the thirteen months that he was general director at the Schauspielhaus, Lietzau also had to suffer the consequences of the 1968-69 season under the luckless general director Egon Monk, as the Senate Report on the State of the Theatre in Hamburg states.

His legacy was a considerable drop in attendances. The Senate found out that an average of only 68 per cent of the seats available in the Schauspielhaus were taken.

At the same time over ninety per cent of seats at the Hamburg State Opera were sold. The Thalia Theater enjoys great

public favour and sold an average of 88 per cent of available tickets.

The Schauspielhaus decline becomes even plainer when comparing attendances for the various plays. The auditorium was not even half full for the worst attended production, Harold Pinter's one-act plays *Silence* and *Landscape*.

The best attended play, Brecht's *Punta*, played to 84 per cent of the total capacity. Comparable figures for the Thalia Theater range from 71 and 98 per cent.

The sponsoring authorities are not always completely blameless for the theatre crises. Whenever the city or State gets into financial difficulties many theatres suddenly find that they have to work on a smaller budget.

The years of recession in 1966 and 1967 plunged theatres into a real financial crisis. As they had their own money worries, most Federal states and local authorities stopped subsidising theatres. This led to closures, dismissals of technicians and actors, cooperation and an exchange of productions with neighbouring theatres.

Harry Buckwitz, the manager in Frankfurt, made the ironic comment that now that the building sites for the city's underground railway had been closed, so should the theatres.

Hamburg's theatre adviser admits that the municipal authorities and the Federal states want to avoid this as theatres help a city's cultural image. But to do this, the authorities have to dig deep in their coffers as the famous State-run and municipal theatres do not pay their way.

The Schauspielhaus employs 309 people at present, 234 of them in administrative or technical posts. The remainder are actors, producers, directors and the like.

Of the total budget of 9.6 million Marks granted for the current season by the Hamburg Senate 81 per cent goes to the staff and only nineteen per cent is spent on materials. The Deutsches Schauspielhaus has to pay more than eight million Marks on wages, salaries, fees and welfare contributions.

Receipts and expenditure at the State-run theatres can only be balanced by public funds however. Hamburg, with a State contribution of 59 per cent is the most economic city. Munich theatres receive 69 per cent of its budget from public funds and Berlin as much as 78 per cent.

Continued on page 7

case, inhumane sentences and parental behaviour that is based on fear of

the play by the young team of writers has been given an admirably natural flavour by the Dortmund ensemble.

What now? must not be judged according to traditional artistic yardsticks.

The most decisive criterion for this documentary play is its degree of reality. And this sinks when the reasons for the failure of the younger generation are found almost exclusively in the failure of adults.

Personal consideration, though not self-criticism, would have helped the arguments behind this altogether justified accusation against society.

But perhaps it is rash to expect a discriminating attitude from those people who have been shunted through the legal system with all its bureaucratic inhibitions and cynical treatment of human beings.

A key phrase in *What now?*, scribbled on the wall of a cell in a detention centre, should, it is to be hoped, reach the address for which it is intended: "Jail — the murderer of my youth".

Hans Jansen
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 February 1971)

Hartmut Regitz
(CHRIST UND WELT, 12 February 1971)

(DIE ZEIT, 12 February 1971)

Günther Freese
(DIE ZEIT, 12 February 1971)



Pas de trois in the Martin Luther church at Ulm

(Photo: Hannes Küller)

Ulm experiments with church ballet

CHRIST UND WELT

DIE ZEIT

It was obvious that the Martin Luther Church in Ulm had tried to provide cover for a possible line of retreat. The church's official bulletin stated that it intended to revive an almost forgotten form of religious activity by organising dancing in church and following the tradition of the Latin countries.

Parishioners applauded. It almost seemed as if this was an acknowledgement of the efforts being made. But it was the spontaneous approval that betrayed what parishioners expected.

They did not think of this dancing as an expression of spiritual joy but as a

bullet evening that had been switched by chance to a church.

Basically little had changed and, try as one would, no liturgical aim could be recognised. The background, surroundings and comfort had all changed but the product had not. This only differed in degree and stylistic colour from the old presented in our theatres.

The young Stuttgart ballet dancer Jan

Stripling provided the choreography in Ulm for Harold Heilmann's *Creation and Creature*, an ode for strings, alto voice, organ, vibraphone, percussion and mime.

It was done in the form of a simple pas de trois which he himself arranged with Susanne Hanke and Kurt Speker and interpreted in painless fashion.

Continued from page 6

performances. These total some three million Marks.

A look at the books will show that it is

hardly possible to get state theatres in this country out of the red. Proposals in

Hamburg to combine the administration

of the two theatres, merge the workshops

of the two theatres and the opera house,

rationalise administration and put on

fewer new productions can only have the

aim of keeping the deficit within limits.

Theatres in this country, unlike in

industrial concerns, have still not realised

that tired consumers will take notice of

their products, once again if there is a

lively advertising campaign.

The Hamburg Senate recognises that

this can no longer be done with posters

announcing the theatre timetable, on

advertisement pillars and in the daily

press.

New advertising methods and perfor-

mances in the suburbs, at schools and

firms could make the theatre more

attractive and lead to a new type of

audience at plays and operas.

Then, the Hamburg Senate states, the

theatre would be carrying out its social

and educational function. That seems

necessary — less than ten per cent of the

population are theatre-goers.

Günther Freese

(DIE ZEIT, 12 February 1971)

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■ EDUCATION

Newspapers used in lessons in Munich school

Studentenzeitung

Suicide, if there's anything on the subject in the paper," replied a girl in the third class in an elementary school in Leipziger Strasse, Munich, when asked by teacher Franz Hutterer what news items interested her.

Was it the sports pages, he asked, or the cartoons, politics, cinema news, space travel or simply anything that happened?

Children in the third class of the school were reading newspapers. They were not hidden furtively under the desk but were an official part of the lesson.

A five-man team composed of teachers and professors stated that newspapers, as part of the environment, should be included in teaching.

Professor Schneider, the head of the team, said at a press conference that, compared with other mass media, newspapers got short shrift as regards children.

Unlike the communal experiences of watching television or listening to the radio, reading a newspaper is an individual experience and, as Professor Schneider says, needs to be encouraged and helped by schools.

The Professor added, "Radio and television broadcast programmes specifically for children — above all the schools broadcasts — while newspapers lag behind on this point."

What should therefore learn what a newspaper is by being told about news-

papers and working with them. "It would be great if one day all schools in Bavaria were to help children read newspapers from the third class onwards," Professor Schneider says.

But he has no illusions. He knows that this scheme is still in its infancy. The Education Ministry has not yet been informed as Professor Schneider and his team wanted concrete results so that the experiment could be expanded.

"Formal aims" was the subject in the third class of the Munich elementary school. When the newspapers images were discussed, one girl said innocently, "The *Merkur* is back" and was surprised when reporters in the back row started to laugh.

One pupil looked at the lively banner headlines of *tz*, *AZ* and *Bild* and said that the reason for this was so that it would not be boring. One girl soon found an advantage of having newspapers delivered: "You can then read them over breakfast . . ."

The use of formal criteria as an introduction to the subject was discussed afterwards by the Munich journalists. "Perhaps the whole lesson was too formal," one reporter said. "Perhaps the children should first have said what they know about newspapers."

Professor Schneider once again stressed his standpoint of first creating the formal basis before, perhaps, including more specific questions and suggestions by the class. The varying degree of knowledge shown by the children proved to be a particular difficulty, he said. Stefan Klein (*Studentenzeitung*, 10 February 1971)

Lessing Academy set up in Wolfenbüttel

Hannoversche Allgemeine

On 4 February 1971 the Lessing Academy was set up in Wolfenbüttel with the aim of encouraging research into the intellectual and religious history of Lessing's time and the influence Lessing had on subsequent intellectual and religious trends.

Above all, texts are to be edited and work will be done on bibliographies and collections of documents.

The Lessing Academy will also organise regular international congresses where researchers and educationalists from throughout the world will be able to discuss topical questions involving intellectual and religious history.

Another aim of the Academy is to encourage a regular exchange of researchers, academics and students between the Federal Republic, Israel and other countries.

Among the founder members are Hilde Kubel, Professor Thiele of Brunswick (the head of administration) and Mayor Schütze of Wolfenbüttel. Dr Max Plaut of Hamburg was elected as head of the Academy.

Other members of the executive are Dr Günter Schulz of Bremen, Professor Rengstorff of Münster, Mayor Schütze of Wolfenbüttel and Dr Paul Raabe, also of Wolfenbüttel.

Apart from the executive there will also be a board and a senate in which scholars from home and abroad will work.

(*Hannoversche Allgemeine*, 5 February 1971)

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■ CONSUMER SPOTLIGHT

Mail-order giants mastermind spring and summer catalogues

DIE ZEIT

Convicts at Munich jail are working flat out to cope with Consul Schickendantz's seasonal rush. Dr Gustav Schickendantz is the head of Quelle, based in Fürth, Bavaria, one of this country's leading mail-order houses, and his convict employees will have spent more than a week slaving over forms and brochures into more than 50,000 catalogues a day and slipping the lavishly-illustrated catalogues into the envelopes provided.

Roughly half the 3.7 million Quelle catalogues that are prepared for mailing within a fortnight of the appearance of the spring and summer catalogues are packed in Bavarian jails. The remainder are handled by housewives in the Bavarian Forest area and areas adjacent to the frontier with the GDR, not to mention special shifts at Quelle's mailing headquarters in Nuremberg.

Large-scale use of cheap labour is more economic for the firm than buying expensive machinery that would only operate at capacity for a fortnight once in six months.

The mountains of paper despatched twice a year to customers at home and in more than 100 foreign countries by this country's leading mail-order firm (Quelle's 1970 turnover amounted to roughly 3,500 million Marks, about half of which was accounted for by the mail-order sector) hardly bear thinking about.

Stacked one on top of the other the catalogues would tower eighty miles up into the sky and weighed on a monster weightbridge would be a match for no less than 16,000 Volkswagen beetles.

Together with five million catalogues despatched by Neckermann of Frankfurt, 1,400,000 by Werner Otto of Hamburg, 1,200,000 by Schwab of Hanau and millions more sent to customers by Schöpflin, a Quelle subsidiary, GEG, the Coop mail-order house based in Kamen, Westphalia, and Baur, an old-established mail-order firm in Burgkunstadt, Bavarian Forest, more mail-order catalogues are running off the presses this year than ever before.

More than fifteen million eye-catching catalogues will soon have landed on the breakfast-tables of families all over the country advertising what the leading

mail-order firms have to offer this spring and summer. The Quelle or Neckermann catalogue is in many cases the only book in the house.

People in this country buy more from glossy photograde mail-order catalogues than anyone else. The average German buys 110 Marks worth of goods a year by mail-order, the Englishman 85 Marks, the Swede seventy and the American fifty Marks worth.

With a four-and-a-half-per-cent share in retail trade turnover totalling 1,840 million Marks in 1970 mail-order firms in this country are in a better position than their opposite numbers anywhere else.

The design, manufacture and despatch of their seductive best-sellers runs according to a strict timetable and military precision. Even a few day's delay could have unforeseeable consequences for the mail-order magnates.

The catalogue in which their wares are presented is as important for the mail-order man as the floor space of a department store for a store manager.

The store manager pushes lines that are selling well in every department with the aim of boosting sales per square foot. The mail-order buyer aims at filling every page of the catalogue with sales successes.

In order to be able to judge the use to which catalogue space was being put and give less coverage to slower-selling lines in subsequent catalogues Josef Neckermann decided to work out turnover per square centimetre of catalogue page.

At the head offices of leading mail-order firms large departments spend all year and every year planning and producing the next catalogue. Quelle and Neckermann employ nearly 200 organisers, commercial artists, writers and photographers, Otto 120.

Photographers and layout men are at work on the next catalogue before the current one is despatched. At the beginning of January, six weeks before distribution of the spring and summer catalogue, the management of Quelle reached a decision as to the size and content of the winter catalogue, which is not printed until August.

Shortly afterwards the catalogue planners set the buyers deadlines for supplying the samples they need for illustration in the winter catalogue.

The layout pages of merchandise that is less subject to fashion changes are ready quite early. The first line to take final

page shape is men's outerwear, which is little affected by the vagaries of fashion.

Similarly unproblematic lines such as bed linen, furniture and household goods are also photographed and supplied with a sales patter early on in the proceedings. The very last section to be completed is women's fashion, which have to be as up-to-date as possible when the freshly-printed catalogue lands on the consumer's kitchen table.

This year the buyers were in a quandary as to whether to plump for mini, midi or maxi. At a number of mail-order firms overtime had to be worked to offset the delay caused by this time-wasting problem.

The cover photo must be particularly at the height of fashion and no catalogue would be complete without the latest fashions on the cover. The firms know only too well that women are first to peruse the catalogues and that an attractive fashion display will decide them to thumb through the fashion section right away.

The models must accordingly look neither too plain nor too sexy. As many women as possible must feel able to identify themselves with the women in the catalogue who are wearing the clothes they would like to buy.

Stocking limitations of mail-order houses

Ott have their 828-page catalogue (as against Quelle's 648, Neckermann's 682 and Schwab's 808 pages) printed by a single firm in Munich.

Unlike department stores, which need only rearrange their shop-window displays so as to "sell" a new line to customers when an old one goes out of stock, mail-order firms cannot afford to do this luxury.

A mail-order customer occasionally has to wait some time for his parcel to arrive and if it does not deliver the goods he or she is annoyed and may withdraw their custom.

In order not to over- or underbuy fashion in particular, incalculable as it is, the leading mail-order firms have test runs of their fashion sections before despatching the main catalogue.

A few weeks before the main catalogue appears Quelle, for instance, sends slim pre-catalogues containing nothing but the latest in fashion to several thousand agents.

The orders that come give the buyers a shrewd idea as to how the lines will sell. They can then place prompt orders so as not to be overwhelmed by the demand.

As a rule buyers can tell within a few weeks whether their purchases of the other 40,000 lines in the catalogue have been sufficient. Computers print out sales figures several times a week and provide a good idea as to turnover as a whole is faring. The computers can base their forecasts on sales trends in previous seasons.

Major mail-order firms set great store by their prestige as inexpensive dealers. Twice a year they tensely await the prices charged by their competitors for lines that count as criteria of good value: colour TV sets, dishwashers and washing machines.

Leaflets slipped into the body of the catalogue at the last moment proclaiming,

ORDER FORM

I / We hereby subscribe to THE GERMAN TRIBUNE at the following rates (postage included):

Deutsche Marks	U.S. Dollars	Pounds Sterling
Six months 12.50	3.50	1.88
Twelve months 25.00	7.00	2.17.0

(Underline whatever applicable)

The amount may also be paid in your country's currency

Messrs / Mr / Mrs / Miss

Name:

Profession:

Street:

City:

Country:

Zip Code:

Please return the completed order form to:
THE GERMAN TRIBUNE - FRIEDRICH REINECKE VERLAG GMBH
23 Schöne Aussicht, 2 Hamburg 22 - Federal Republic of Germany

POLLUTION

Old oilfields could be dumping grounds for effluent

Spent oilfields in North-West Germany may one day be the final resting-place of poisonous industrial effluent, the disposal of which at present creates something of a headache and is often an expensive business.

The geologists do, on the other hand, foresee possibilities of using the spent oilfields as a final resting-place for harmful gaseous and liquid effluent that costs a great deal to dispose of elsewhere and plays a part in contaminating the environment no matter how much it is diluted prior to release into the atmosphere or rivers or the sea.

Experience has shown that substances as toxic as this do not occur in tremendous amounts and moderate storage facilities would probably be sufficient to cope with the intake for some time.

Assuming, for theory's sake, that the same amount of toxic effluent is pumped into the oilfields as has been pumped out in the form of petroleum or natural gas over the years and is likely still to be exploited some 230 million cubic metres (300 million cubic yards) of storage space ought to be available.

In practice, of course, there will not be quite so much because a number of deposits can only be used in part for geological reasons. The six million cubic metres of space in oilfields already abandoned do not represent a very interesting proposition either.

Could, then, the underground storage space be put to other uses, the geologists wondered, and if so how?

Electronic warning for rail track layers

As a result of several years of development work Deutsche Bundesbahn, the Federal Railways, have issued three prototypes of an electronic warning system to give track-layers adequate advance warning of approaching trains and, it is hoped, reduce the strikingly high accident figures among track-laying and maintenance operatives.

One, Hans Beckmann of the railway union executive states, has been issued to Frankfurt region.

The electronic warning device is connected to a track contact and consists mainly of a box, batteries and the horn. Yet it took a good deal of technical ingenuity to overcome the difficulties that arose in the course of development work.

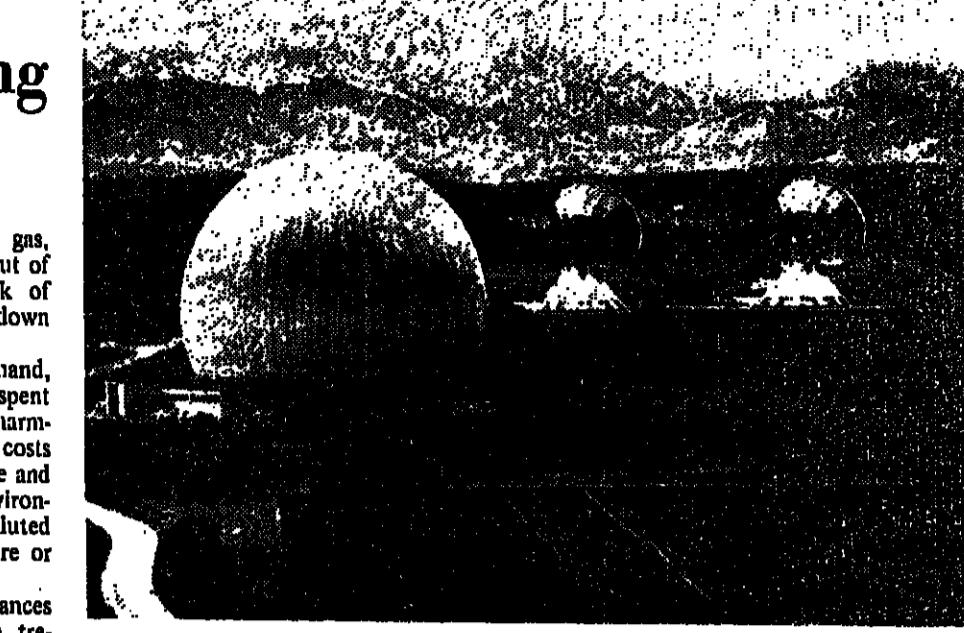
Catalogues cost more and more to produce. Neckermann invests eight million in a copy, Quelle ten and Otto 12. Otto's catalogues have to stand up to fair amount of wear and tear, they since Otto, like Schwab and Naur, with spartan agents who show the book to friends and relations and place bulk orders in return for a modest sum.

Her Beckmann was a little doubtful as to whether the prototype now in use would prove satisfactory on moving sites. It is quite heavy, difficult to carry about and will probably prove most suitable for semi-permanent sites.

Otto can afford to plough more into the world's first underground recovery vehicle, has recently been taken into service in Frankfurt. Weighing sixteen tons, it was designed by four Federal Republic firms. It includes intercom and six floodlights, costing 240,000 Marks. Mobile, by both road and rail, it is specially designed for rescue work in underground tunnels. It has hydraulic winches, welding equipment and oxygen-cylinders, fire extinguishers and medical supplies for the seriously injured on board. A second vehicle has been shown by the New York, Moscow and Tokyo Undergrounds.

The main problem still requiring solution is unquestionably the weight, Beckmann says. "In addition to the batteries and numerous safety devices that trigger off the alarm as soon as any conceivable defect becomes apparent have made the device a considerable weight."

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 February 1971)



Communications satellite

Deutsche Bundespost's third communications satellite tracking station at Raisting, Bavaria, is to be taken into service in time for the 1972 Munich Olympics. The first aerial handles telecommunications with the Middle and Far East, the second links with North and South America. In view of the growing number of countries linked to the Intelstar system a third serial will be ready by mid-July 1972 (instead of the original 1973) in time to handle Olympic TV, radio, radiophoto and phone links. This superimposed photo shows the first serial (left, radome-covered) and its right serials two and three, which are shielded from the elements by infra-red radiation.

Bundestag hearing on marine pollution

Ecologists reckon that new holiday areas and camping sites on the coast ought only to be made available when sewage facilities are adequate.

At an open meeting on problems relating to environmental protection Professor Berndt, director of the institute of hygiene and medical microbiology of Lübeck Medical Academy, told the home affairs and health sub-committees of the Bundestag that sewage disposal was the main cause of water pollution in the Bay of Lübeck.

The continual increase in pollution of coastal waters in recent years can in part, he said, be attributed to the construction of new hotel complexes and holiday centres without sufficient sewage disposal facilities.

Most of the specialists consulted, including Professor Ulrich Roll of Hamburg, head of the Federal Republic Hydrographical Institute, advocated a comprehensive system of inspection and control so as to prevent irreparable harm.

This is the third proposal for underground storage facilities to be made by the Hanover geologists that has been of national importance.

Helmut Schmidt

(Hannoversche Presse, 9 February 1971)

The sources of marine pollution men-

tioned included industrial effluent, domestic sewage, agriculture, shipping and exploitation of raw materials from the sea.

Professor Helmuth Leibnitz, head of the department of oceanology at Kiel University, admitted that the health hazard of direct use of seawater by Man was slight.

A more frequent cause of illness, he continued, is the consumption of sea food, say fish that have absorbed noxious substances in their own food.

The disturbance of the biological balance in the sea represents a particularly serious aspect of the problem. Whales and seals die when their noses and eyes are clogged up with oil and fish eggs and larvae stand to be harmed by the components of oil that are soluble in water. Professor Tiews, director of the Federal Fishery Research Institute in Hamburg, talked in terms of a considerable increase in marine pollution.

The overall amount of pollution is as yet so slight, though, that it has not for this time being affected the amount of fish caught in waters fished by this country's fleet to any great extent.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 9 February 1971)

Underground recovery

The world's first underground recovery vehicle, has recently been taken into service in Frankfurt. Weighing sixteen tons, it was designed by four Federal Republic firms. It includes intercom and six floodlights, costing 240,000 Marks. Mobile, by both road and rail, it is specially designed for rescue work in underground tunnels. It has hydraulic winches, welding equipment and oxygen-cylinders, fire extinguishers and medical supplies for the seriously injured on board. A second vehicle has been shown by the New York, Moscow and Tokyo Undergrounds.

(Photo: AP)

■ OUR WORLD

Medals and honours are part of the international scene

President Gustav Heinemann, this country's highest official responsible for conferring honours, said resignedly a few days after he took office: "There is no rhyme nor reason in the business of bestowing honours in this country and I see no way of making the system more just. And in connection with other countries we are tied to international usage."

though diplomatic relations between Conakry and Bonn have been severed. Medals that have been presented to foreigners cannot be recalled. But after the death of the man who wore them they must be returned.

President Heinemann, who like his predecessors Theodor Heuss and Heinrich Lübeck is bound by international usage in the award of honours to people from other countries. These rules date back to the Congress of Vienna in 1814-1815.

Heads of state exchange honours in much the same way that ordinary people shake hands. The exchange of honours, devised in the Middle Ages as a symbol of peace or at least civil peace, does not mean much more today than a polite gesture that is offered on official occasions. The grade of awards depends on the rank of the person who is being awarded, but not on the value of his services to the Federal Republic.

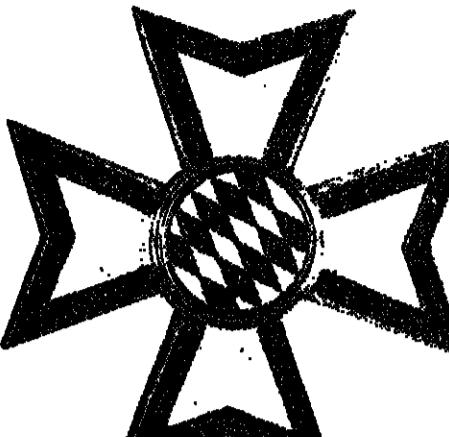
Before state visits the guest and host present their list of honours required, dictated by custom, and these are offered without any kind of investigation. Visitor and host both receive the honour that is ascribed to them by protocol.

Heads of state always receive from President Gustav Heinemann the special grade of the Grand Cross of the Order of Africa, have led to the situation where the anti-German leader of Equatorial Guinea, Sékou Touré, Queen Soraya and the former dictator of Argentina, Juan Perón, can still wear the highest honour of the Federal Republic, namely senior grade of the Order of Merit which was actually created for heads of states and their wives and which including the star and sash has a material value of about 300 Marks.

Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

These world-wide customs which are recognised by conventional democracies as well as by the developing nations of Africa, have led to the situation where the anti-German leader of Equatorial Guinea, Sékou Touré, Queen Soraya and the former dictator of Argentina, Juan Perón, can still wear the highest honour of the Federal Republic, namely senior grade of the Order of Merit which was actually created for heads of states and their wives and which including the star and sash has a material value of about 300 Marks.

Despite his brutal treatment of people from this country Sékou Touré can still wear the highest distinction of the Federal Republic on formal occasions al-



Bavarian Order of Merit

According to international usage the number of honours that are exchanged on state visits is not equal. The visitor, as a general rule, gives away three times as many honours as the host.

Very few States do not follow these customs that have been handed down from feudal times. Zambia, for instance, does not give any honours and the Soviet Union only honours foreign statesmen and civilians considered by the Supreme Soviet to have done political work worthy of honour.

Internationally famous awards have histories going back centuries. England first awarded the Order of the Garter in 1350, the Order of Vasa in Sweden dates from 1772 and the French Cross of the Legion of Honour from 1802.

The honours secretary in the Federal former President's Office, Hans-Ulrich Krantz, described in his book *Orden und Ehrenzeichen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* the motivations behind Theodor Heuss' decision in 1951 to reinstate the German code of honours.

"To give thanks and recognition to other countries that have helped us... must be the aim of the people of this country. There was a scheme to supplement this code of honour with, among other things, a State award to all those who, after the war, had been particularly generous in this country this year will be worth as much as much as possible."

In between orders for presidents and their suits there are four various grades of honours.

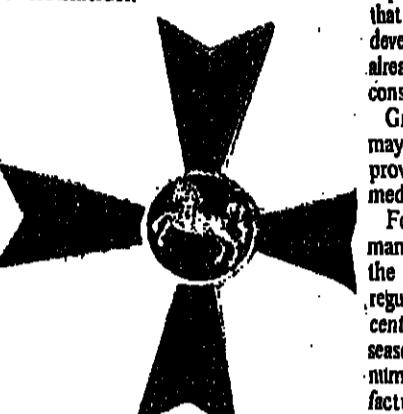
The true meaning of honours today expressed by the Emperor Haile Selassie on his first visit to Bonn when he told Social Democrat Carlo Schmid the Emperor of Menelik II. He said: "It is simple remembrance that people in our past must wear such superficiality."

Goethe was less respectful about it, he said: "An honour stops many a dog in a crowd."

Those responsible for creating the list of honours in 1951 took their task so seriously that the official government Bulletin stated: "Honours are far more than mere decorations, they are the insignia of an elite society."

How just this elite and the critics singling them out is today international. With these technical details at his Heinemann's first visits abroad, the visitor to the Netherlands the President

of the Netherlands the President received the same Dutch honour as Queen Juliana had given her ambassador in The Hague for his extraordinary services over years in the course of German reconciliation.



The Lower Saxony Order of Merit

(Photo: Peter Koenig)

The 1971 Budget for honours was 110,000 Marks, about 100,000 for the metal and other materials and 10,000 for the partially hand-made.

It is by no means merely a matter of the large number of beginners who will be buying their first set of equipment in the years to come. There is a growing trend towards buying a second pair of skis that is bound to keep business brisk. It no longer feels like a luxury for a skier to have one pair of skis for ice and another for deep, soft snow.

The end of the boom is not yet in sight either. Fifteen million people ski at present. By the end of the century their number is expected to have doubled.

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(WELT am SONNTAG, 7 February 1971)

The hazards that face Bundestag members

the ranks of Bundestag disturbers of the peace.

On 1st December 1965 this former miner sprang up while Chancellor Erhard was in the middle of a speech and called out "I'm a worker - why don't you do some work as well!" The result of this unscheduled outburst was a long ban from the Bundestag and nothing more.

Erhard Reinhard and Eckhardt Bräggen, both from Aachen, who were described as "insignificant madmen" did not come off so well and had to spend several months in jail.

They rarely achieve anything more than a few lines in the paper since their activities are part of the everyday life of Bundestag officials. For a long time now the legal authorities in the Federal Republic capital have acted leniently towards these visitors to the house.

Bonnie housewife Gerda Ewert-Basten for example received no further punishment than a life-long ban on visiting the Bundestag when she voiced her objection to the proposed emergency powers legislation by loud blast on a swimming coach's whistle.

The former Federal Minister of Family Affairs Dr Franz-Josef Wuerthner (CDU) almost gave rise to a fire for all in the Bundestag when he called out to the whistling housewife: "You must be one of the SPD's reinforcements".

A cleric's old age pensioner from Bochum earned himself a notable place in the Bundestag for a long time now although the electorate has never sent a member of the NPD to the house.

On 11 November 1966, three weeks before Erhard's eclipse, businessman Richard Hermann demonstrated in favour of the controversial chancellor by making strange noises and when it was opened it was found to contain a wad of money, intended as a satire on the Bundestag's financial situation.

There was also the young citizen of the Federal Republic who went on a sit-down strike in front of Entrance III in 1966

because he said he had to speak to Franz Josef Strauß who, he claimed, had abducted his wife.

And finally there was the case of Katharina Schübel who on 2 July 1965 at the psychiatric ward of Eichberg hospital and next day appeared in the Bundestag and told members that she was not sick.

Those who do not fancy going to Bundestag without going through usual channels write letters.

Walter Graf from Bonn for example sent a letter in November 1965 calling for the arrest of ninety people without delay.

He had sent in a complete list of names and they ranged from Erich Mielke to Müller, the chemist from Rhenish Metzeler, another tyre manufacturer, a couple of years ago.

Only a few years ago this figure would have been dismissed as wishful thinking and smaller firms that are still to all intents and purposes craftsman's workshops cannot keep up the pace.

Erbacher, Heinrich Hammer, Baden-Württemberg, one of the foremost domestic manufacturers, sold out roughly a year ago to Deutsche Dunlop of Hanau near Frankfurt. Süddeutsche Hammerwerke of Metzeler, another tyre manufacturer, a couple of years ago.

Maria Scholz from Kalkenkirchen believed that she was Anasatis off her services to the SPD parliament party and said that she could help to plan their political activities.

Suspicious packets and parcels sorted out by security officials immediately investigated. Sometimes there are amusing surprises.

In one packet addressed to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer a ticking was heard.

When it was opened it contained a valuable timepiece that had been presented to him by an admirer.

A parcel that was sent to Erich Mielke made strange noises and when it was opened it was found to contain a wad of money, intended as a satire on the Bundestag's financial situation.

There was also the young citizen of the Federal Republic who went on a sit-down strike in front of Entrance III in 1966

(Kleiner Nachrichten, 9 February 1971)

SPORT

Ski specifications to be displayed on skis

shot in the arm from IBM. Rossignol of France have joined forces with Dynastar.

Mergers and take-overs can be expected to continue apace in the next few years. Pundits predict that in the next ten years the only manufacturers that will retain a say in markets will be Fischer, Kneissl, Kästle, Arnestine (Blizzard) and Rohrmoser (Atomic) of Austria, Rossignol of France, Völk, Erbacher and Fritzmeier of this country, Elan of Yugoslavia, Head of the United States and Kazama and Yamaha of Japan.

At present there are still between forty and fifty ski manufacturer in this country, ten to twenty of whom are small- or medium-sized firms. Domestic production this season is estimated to have been between 600,000 and 700,000, roughly half of which is exported.

Other manufacturers can certainly be expected to follow suit, with the result that the particulars of a model may well develop into a criterion of quality as is already the case with a fair number of consumer goods.

Imports, especially from Austria, are considerable, the domestic market being around 750,000 pairs per annum. This makes the Federal Republic the second-largest market for skis in the world after the United States.

In the 1969/70 season world production is estimated to have exceeded three million.

The United States and this country, the world's two major markets, are hotly contested. Major manufacturers have set up their own sales networks in both countries. In the near future Fischer of Austria intend to start manufacturing skis at Simbach in this country.

Rossignol of France, who already manufacture in Italy and Switzerland as well, have plans to start up production in Spain, Canada and this country too.

Head, who market not only skis but also skiing outerwear, have for some time held 75 per cent of the share capital of Kastner and Köfle, the Austrian boot and shoe manufacturers.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 12 February 1971)

this respect for what is, after all, a major industrial country. While diversification is common practice as a means of hedging bets in other industries it is relatively unknown in the ski trade. Only recently have there been signs that a change may be on the horizon.

A winter sports firm is shortly to be set up in Austria that will manufacture not only skis but also a number of other complementary products.

Fischer, who already cooperate on sales with Humanic, the ski-boot manufacturer and Marker, the manufacturer of ski bindings have similar plans. Fischer have already set up Fischer-Marker-Humanic of Canada in Toronto and Fischer-Kästle Sales of France. The French subsidiary also markets ski sticks manufactured by a Viennese firm.

Domestic manufacturers are also making every effort to enlarge their production range. Völk recently added sticks, ski socks and a synthetic curling set to their range. BB Bavaria Binding of Munich offer an all-in skiing set, with a number of well-known manufacturers such as Klepper, Rosenheim, Erbacher, Elan and others under contract.

Head, who market not only skis but

also skiing outerwear, have for some time held 75 per cent of the share capital of Kastner and Köfle, the Austrian boot and shoe manufacturers.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 12 February 1971)

country. A further ten million are to be made available this year. Last year part of the total was put at the disposal of Hamburg and Düsseldorf.

At present the government sees no need to propose any increase in the total, Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher notes. Next year sixteen million Marks will be made available and in 1973 the final instalment of twenty million. An additional 35 million Marks are to be invested in improvements to the Berlin Olympic stadium.

More than half the overall total is to be invested in construction work on the Olympic sports facilities in Munich and Kiel. This year the Federal government is to provide 85 million Marks as its fifty-per-cent share of the costs. Last year this sum was 46 million. The organisation committee for the 1972 Munich Olympics is to receive a repayable loan of seven million Marks.

In order to press ahead with work in preparation for the opening of the Federal Sports Institute in Cologne 4.3 million Marks are to be allocated.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 5 February 1971)



Aden	SA 1.05	Colombia	col. 1.—	Formosa	NT 5.—	Indonesia	Rp. 15.—	Malawi	11 d	Paraguay	G. 15.—	Sudan	PT 5.—
Algeria	AI 10.—	Congo (Brazzaville)	col. 1.—	France	FF 0.60	Iran	Ri 10.—	Malaysia	S. 3.50	Syria	S. 3.50	Tunisia	EAS 0.25
Angola	DA 0.50	Congo (Kinshasa)	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Iraq	50.—	Mexico	FM 0.50	Turkey	T. 0.25	U.S.A.	EAS 0.25
Argentina	Dec. 1.—	Costa Rica	Makita 7.—	Germany	DM 1.—	Israel	J. 1.14	Morocco	DM 0.33	U.S.S.R.	EAS 1.—	Thailand	EAS 3.—
Australia	8 m u 1.—	Cuba	C. 0.85	Ghana	cedi 0.12	Italy	J. 1.14	Mozambique	DM 0.33	Rhodesia	EAS 1.—	Trinidad and Tobago	EAS 1.—
Austria	10 c.—	Cyprus	P. 0.13	Great Britain	11 d	Ivory Coast	J. 1.14	Namibia	MD 0.50	Russia	EAS 1.—	Togo	EAS 0.20
Bahrain	1.50	Cuba	P. 0.13	Iraq	DM 1.—	Jamaica	J. 1.14	Netherlands	MD 0.50	Philippines	F.C.F.A. 30.—	Turkey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Bolivia	bfr 6.—	Cyprus	P. 0.13	Great Britain	11 d	Jamaica	J. 1.14	Netherlands	MD 0.50	Portugal	EAS 1.—	Tunisia	EAS 1.—
Brazil	bfr 6.—	Cyprus	P. 0.13	Iraq	DM 1.—	Jamaica	J. 1.14	Netherlands	MD 0.50	Russia	EAS 1.—	U.S.A.	EAS 0.25
Bulgaria	bfr 6.—	Cyprus	P. 0.13	Great Britain	11 d	Jamaica	J. 1.14	Netherlands	MD 0.50	Philippines	EAS 1.—	U.S.S.R.	EAS 0.25
Canada	bfr 6.—	Cyprus	P. 0.13	Iraq	DM 1.—	Jamaica	J. 1.14	Netherlands	MD 0.50	Portugal	EAS 1.—	U.S.S.R.	EAS 0.25
Chile	bfr 6.—	Cyprus	P.										